

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method of coordinating resources to complete a design project, said method
2 comprising:
3 prioritizing tasks to create a project plan;
4 automatically notifying resources of task responsibilities and associated due dates based on
5 said project plan through the use of encryption keys;
6 controlling access to said design data through the use of said encryption keys assigned to
7 said resources;
8 automatically monitoring work being performed on said tasks through a computerized
9 network; and
10 automatically notifying a project team leader of task completion status, overdue tasks, and
11 tasks being ignored, based on said monitoring.

1 2. The method in claim 1, wherein said monitoring includes observing whether a resource is
2 actively working on a task exclusively by observing network activity of said resource.

1 3. The method in claim 1, further comprising automatically scheduling a meeting of all
2 corresponding resources if a task becomes overdue.

1 4. The method in claim 1, further comprising producing periodic status reports based on said
2 monitoring.

1 5. The method in claim 1, further comprising automatically notifying said resources of
2 additional tasks as prerequisite tasks are completed.

1 6. The method in claim 1, further comprising automatically searching for additional resources
2 for tasks that are overdue.

1 7. The method in claim 1, wherein said monitoring comprises a polling function.

1 8. A method of coordinating resources to complete a design project, said method
2 comprising:

3 identifying tasks that must be finished to complete said design project based on design
4 data;

5 assigning said tasks to a plurality of resources;

6 prioritizing said tasks based on dependency between said tasks to create a project plan;

7 storing said project plan and said design data in a database;

8 automatically notifying said resources of corresponding task responsibilities and associated
9 due dates based on said project plan through the use of encryption keys;

10 controlling access to said design data through the use of said encryption keys assigned to
11 said resources;

12 automatically monitoring work being performed on said tasks through a computerized
13 network; and
14 automatically notifying a project team leader of task completion status, overdue tasks, and
15 tasks being ignored, based on said monitoring.

1 9. The method in claim 8, wherein said monitoring includes observing whether a resource is
2 actively working on a task exclusively by observing network activity of said resource.

1 10. The method in claim 8, further comprising automatically scheduling a meeting of all
2 corresponding resources if a task becomes overdue.

1 11. The method in claim 8, further comprising producing periodic status reports based on said
2 monitoring.

1 12. The method in claim 8, further comprising automatically notifying said resources of
2 additional tasks as prerequisite tasks are completed.

1 13. The method in claim 8, further comprising automatically searching for additional resources
2 for tasks that are overdue.

1 14. The method in claim 8, wherein said monitoring comprises a polling function.

1 15. A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of
2 instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for coordinating resources to
3 complete a design project, said method comprising:
4 prioritizing tasks to create a project plan;
5 automatically notifying resources of task responsibilities and associated due dates based on
6 said project plan through the use of encryption keys;
7 controlling access to said design data through the use of said encryption keys assigned to
8 said resources;
9 automatically monitoring work being performed on said tasks through a computerized
10 network; and
11 automatically notifying a project team leader of task completion status, overdue tasks, and
12 tasks being ignored, based on said monitoring.

1 16. The program storage device in claim 15, wherein said monitoring includes observing
2 whether a resource is actively working on a task exclusively by observing network activity of said
3 resource.

1 17. The program storage device in claim 15, wherein said method further comprises
2 automatically scheduling a meeting of all corresponding resources if a task becomes overdue.

1 18. The program storage device in claim 15, wherein said method further comprises producing
2 periodic status reports based on said monitoring.

1 19. The program storage device in claim 15, wherein said method further comprises
2 automatically notifying said resources of additional tasks as prerequisite tasks are completed.

1 20. The method in claim 15, wherein said method further comprises automatically searching
2 for additional resources for tasks that are overdue.

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